

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method for sealing an end of a burner tube, comprising:

a) forming a stepped bore near the end of the burner tube;

b) inserting a cone-shaped plug element into said bore until a circular periphery of said plug element abutably engages a step defined by said stepped bore, said circular periphery of said plug element having a diameter greater than an inside diameter of said step formed by the stepped bore,;

c) applying a force to said plug element tending to cause its circular periphery to expand radially outwardly; and,

d) applying sufficient force to said plug element to cause said circular periphery to expand radially outwardly until it sealingly engages the inside of said stepped bore.

2. The method of forming a burner tube set forth in claim 1, further comprising the step of forming bends in said tube prior to insertion of said plug element.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of forming openings in said tube through which a combustible gas is discharged, prior to insertion of said plug element.

4. A burner tube for use in a burner assembly, comprising:

a) a tube segment defining a stepped bore at an opened end of said tube segment;

b) a nonplanar plug member having a protruding portion extending towards an open end of said tube segment; and,

c) said plug member having a circular periphery expanded outwardly to sealingly engage an inside wall of said stepped bore, whereby said opened end of said tube segment is sealed.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said plug member is cone-shaped and includes a centrally positioned apex which is engageable by a force applying tool.